

MAR 08 2019

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S  
HEALTHY START PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, a healthy home is imperative for families of  
2 newborns throughout the State; and  
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4 WHEREAS, positive experiences in early childhood can  
5 promote child health and development; and  
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7 WHEREAS, home visiting programs provide individually  
8 tailored support, resources, and information to expectant  
9 parents and families with young children; and  
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11 WHEREAS, in-home support is especially important for  
12 families at risk of child maltreatment and neglect; and  
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14 WHEREAS, home visiting services address the risk of child  
15 abuse by fostering family functioning, promoting child health  
16 and development, enhancing positive parenting skills, and  
17 linking parents to community resources including health and  
18 mental health services, early childhood education, childcare,  
19 family literacy, employment, and social services; and  
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21 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Healthy Start program, run by the  
22 Department of Health, is the State's primary home visiting child  
23 abuse prevention program; and  
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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Healthy Start program was previously a  
26 statewide model but, due to budget restrictions, home visitation  
27 services are now limited to one site in Leeward Oahu and one  
28 site in Hilo on the Island of Hawaii; and  
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30 WHEREAS, despite these budget cuts, the home visiting  
31 program remains of vital importance to at-risk families; and  
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33 WHEREAS, in 2017, the home visiting program conducted  
34 nearly 11,000 home visits, reaching 128 pregnant women, 712  
35 parents and guardians, and 801 children in 840 households; and  
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1 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Department of Health received a  
2 highly competitive Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home  
3 Visiting grant from the United States Department of Health and  
4 Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration;  
5 and  
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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Health projects that during the  
8 current two year grant period, from October 1, 2018, through  
9 September 30, 2020, the combination of federal and state funding  
10 will allow the Department to reach more than 1,700 participants  
11 through the home visiting program; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the benefits of the home visiting program were  
14 recently noted in a longitudinal study of Hawaii Healthy Start  
15 conducted by Johns Hopkins University, where the ten year  
16 outcomes revealed substantial benefits for a key subset of  
17 targeted families, extended across a range of health, parenting,  
18 and child development outcomes; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the findings from the Johns Hopkins researchers  
21 are of great relevance for future Healthy Start development and  
22 research and also emphasize the need to continue, expand, and  
23 improve the Healthy Start Program, including the home visiting  
24 program; now, therefore,  
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
27 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the  
28 Department of Health is urged to continue expanding and  
29 improving its Healthy Start Program, including reinstatement of  
30 a statewide network of home visiting services; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.  
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OFFERED BY:

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